

**STATEMENT BY ANA MERCEDES DÍAZ CARDOZO**

I, Ana Mercedes Díaz Cardozo, hereby declare the following:

1. My name is Ana Mercedes Díaz Cardozo. I'm known as Ana Diaz by many. I am an adult of the sound mine and was born in Caracas, Venezuela on March 24, 1960. I'm a naturalized American citizen. I reside at 923 Gulf Stream Court, Weston, Florida 33327.

2. I make this statement voluntarily and on my own initiative. I have not been promised, nor do I expect to receive anything in exchange for my testimony and give this statement. I have no expectation of any benefit or reward and understand that there are those who can try to hurt me for what I say in this statement.

3. I moved from Venezuela to the United States in 2004 due to political corruption and rapid decline in my home country of Venezuela. I want to alert the public and let the world know the truth about corruption, manipulation, and lies committed through a conspiracy of individuals and businesses with the intention of betraying the honest people of the United States and its legally constituted institutions and fundamental rights as citizens. This conspiracy began more than a decade ago in Venezuela and has spread to countries around the world. It is a conspiracy to unjustly gain and maintain power and wealth. These are political leaders, powerful companies, and others whose purpose is to gain and maintain power by changing people's free will and subverting the proper course of governing.

4. After graduating from high school, I attended the University of Santa Maria in Caracas, Venezuela and graduated as a lawyer in 1987. Then I studied a postgraduate degree in administrative law at the University of Central Venezuela. Before I could submit my thesis for a Master's degree in Administrative Law, I moved to the United States. I'm certified as an arbiter of international trade.

5. I was a career official for 25 years at the Supreme Electoral Council of Venezuela, which is the name that it was called in the 1970's. It is currently called the National Electoral Council. This is the highest electoral administrative agency in Venezuela and oversees all elections in Venezuela. In 1979, at the age of 19, I began my career at the Supreme Electoral Council of Venezuela as secretary in the regional delegation of the federal district. When I graduated from the university as a lawyer, my position on the Supreme Electoral Council changes to the position as an adviser to the Judicial Council of the Supreme Council Electoral. In 1991, I was appointed Assistant Director General of Political Parties, where I served until Hugo Chavez came to power in 1998. Also during this time, I served for seven years as a member of the Legislative Commission of the Venezuelan Electoral Council. It was the role of the Legislative Commission to review and identify any issues related to candidates

for elected positions. The Legislative Commission and my office had access to many resources within the various departments of the Electoral Council, including an information technology section that had experts in computers, computer programming, computer systems and telecommunications features such as modems, telephone lines. I was regularly in communication with the various departments of the Electoral Body for my daily duties. In the last years of my work for the Electoral Counsel, a little of my activities and duties were to learn about electronic voting systems and their functioning by Council experts.

6. As Deputy Director General of Political Parties in the Supreme Electoral Council, it was my duty to oversee everything related to political parties in Venezuela, particularly the participation of political parties in elections and the selection and qualifications of candidates for political office. My office reviewed everything to do with the ability of political parties to participate in the electoral process. Before a political party could be formed, it had to undergo a process for approval. This included legal approval of the party name, its colors and a list of its members. The proposed party had to have a certain percentage of Venezuela's population depending on whether it wanted to be a regional or national party. It could not be constituted as a political party until it was approved by the Supreme Electoral Council. My office also oversaw the creation of ballots that bore the name of the candidates and any party symbol or color that the candidate would like to use. When our office approved these matters, we sent the ballot for printing and circulation. Any conflict over which group could be a political party, which would be a candidate for elected office, how that candidate would be included in the vote, were decided by my office. I was a signatory to all decisions taken by the Political Parties office at the Supreme Electoral Council.

7. After Hugo Chavez was elected, he changed the Venezuelan Constitution. One such change was in the Supreme Electoral Council, now the Electoral Power. In February 2009, a national referendum was passed to change Venezuela's Constitution to end mandate limits for elected officials, including the President of Venezuela. This change allowed Hugo Chavez to be re-elected an unlimited number of times.

8. In 2003, I was appointed Director General of Political Parties at the National Electoral Council. At the end of that year there was a national effort to hold a referendum to remove Hugo Chavez from the post of President. In 2004 I was appointed to the Validation Committee that was responsible for reviewing petitions, the requirements of the signatories were their name, their signature, their fingerprint and their identification number. I discovered many ways that the party in power was trying to override requests. One was the change of forms to reflect that the petition was a referendum on the removal of members of the Venezuelan Congress

rather than the removal of the Venezuelan president. The purpose of manipulating petitions was to prevent a referendum to remove President Chavez from office. I investigated the allegations of fraud with the referendum petitions and lobbied for the fraudulent changes to be rectified. Because of my resistance and protests to this voter fraud, I received a letter in March 2004 stating that my position was trusted and trust had been lost in me and I was fired from the service.

9. After my dismissal, I decided to commit to the study of electoral processes both within Venezuela and in other countries, particularly in South American countries that were experiencing electoral unrest and government manipulation of constitutions, laws and elections. I joined a small group of highly educated and informed people who had access to information about the Venezuelan government and its activities. This group and I conduct interviews with Venezuelan citizens, read news publications and specialized treaties, and write evaluating the political, economic, legal and electoral changes taking place in Venezuela, South American countries, and other parts of the world controlled by socialist dictators and oligarchies. I read these treatises, studies, and publications to educate myself on how elections were manipulated and the use of empirical analysis to detect and identify the manipulation of elections and their results. In addition, I have collected copies of official Venezuelan government documents.

10. Official documents of the Venezuelan government include documents showing the bidding process for the implementation of a new electronic voting system in March 2004 and the award of the contract for that new system to Smartmatic. A true and authentic copy of the Venezuelan National Electoral Council's tender documents, internal memorandums and contract signed between the Venezuelan government and the SBC Consortium (Smartmatic) are labeled Exhibit 1 and this statement is attached. I received the documents that constitute Exhibit 1 from a reliable person who had taken some notes on the documents and highlighted some parts for my attention. I have not made any alterations to what I have received, and the substantive content of the documents is authentic. For convenience, I've had the Bates document tagged at the bottom right of each page.

11. I have studied the documents contained in Exhibit 1 and have several observations. Exhibit 1 says that it is a contract between the National Electoral Council and the SBC Consortium (Smartmatic) and is dated 15 March 2004. It has a stamp that says Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Secretary General of the National Electoral Council. That is the official seal of the Secretary of the National Electoral Council. The initials at the bottom right side confirm the document's authenticity.

12. You would notice that page DIAZ 00002 is important because it shows that the contract is being made on February 16, 2004. Page DIAZ 00027, reflects that on February 14, 2004 at 11:50 a.m., in the Council's session room, Francisco Carrasquero López, Ezequiel Zamora Presilla, Jorge Rodríguez Gómez (Jorge Rodríguez), Sobella Mejías, and William Pacheco Medina, Vice President, the directors of the Secretary General of Electoral Voters respectively, in order to proceed with the delivery to the technical commissions, designated at the meeting dated 13 February 2004, they opened the tender envelopes containing the tenders of the companies that wanted to be awarded a contract for the automation of Venezuela's voting system and the processes used to carry out the 2004 referendum on the revocation of Hugo Chavez's election. Below you can read the amounts of offers made by Smartmatic SBC, Diebold and other bidders.

13. Then, on page DIAZ 000031, there is an internal note from the Director General of Administration, Mr. Medina. It was dated 14 February 2004 and said that a report on the research and evaluation of companies bidding for the automation of the voting system needed to be prepared.

14. It would then draw attention to the page marked DIAZ 000029. It is a document made on February 13, 2004. While this page is out of sequence, it shows the speed at which the decision was made to award the electoral system contract. The tender began on February 13 and had ended on February 16<sup>th</sup>-- a three-day period to review contracts and evaluate the specifications and performance of bidders' systems, including software, hardware, security, performance and bidding costs for the procurement, installation, training and operation of the systems. By February 16<sup>th</sup>, a decision to choose Smartmatic was made. This is convincing evidence that there was no genuine competition for the electoral system contract or serious consideration for alternative contracts. There was no due diligence and the bidding was rigged. It is not possible that within three or four days to do the formal investigation to evaluate the bids and award a contract of this size and important. The impropriety of this action is confirmed by the fact that the contract with Smartmatic was signed a month later, on 15 March 2004.

15. After the contract was awarded to Smartmatic, it was learned that Smartmatic had no previous experience in conducting elections and electoral tabulations. More importantly, it was discovered that the Smartmatic voting system contained two-way communication functions that allowed voting data not only to be sent to a central system of operation and voting, but the central voting system in operation and tabulation to send operational instructions and data to voting machines. It is not mentioned in the contract documents and specifications that the system would be bidirectional and would allow the transmission of data and instructions from the central operating system directly to voting machines. One

simply has to examine the system diagram on page DIAZ 000057 of Exhibit 1. If this feature of the Smartmatic system had been disclosed to the Electoral Council, it could not have adequately accepted Smartmatic's offer because it would allow the Smartmatic voting system to be handled in a way that manipulated votes and interfered with the legitimate voting and electoral process by impersonating the will to govern officials with the will of the electorate: the citizens of Venezuela. It was not surprising that Hugo Chávez and his successors then constantly won the election through the use and manipulation of the Smartmatic voting system.

16. In the 16 years since I left my post as Director General of Political Parties at the National Electoral Council of Venezuela, I have studied the electoral systems of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and have observed elections and participated in pro-democratic forums in Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua. I have also studied and researched electoral processes in Europe, participating in public academic conferences in Spain and Italy on the subject of democratic electoral processes.

17. Based on my specialized experiences with electoral systems, I have a firm view that no legitimate electronic voting system should be allowed to have the ability of two-way communications to send data and instructions between central tabulation operations and voting machines over telephone lines or the Internet. Having such characteristics compromise the integrity of the entire voting process by allowing injection of data and instructions to manipulate voting before, during and after an election and to avoid detection of processes and mechanisms designed to prevent voting manipulation and fraud.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct and that this Statement was prepared in Dallas County, Texas, and executed on November 20, 2020.



Ana Mercedes Diaz Cardozo